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United Nations might love Beirut

Libyan strongman Moammar Khadafy sent his regrets to the international kaffeeklatsch now under way at the United Nations because he fears for his safety.

So says Khadafy's foreign minister, Ali Treiki, who paints a sinister picture of CIA intrigue and threats to his master's "personal security."

That twaddle won't wash. No doubt Khadafy's scared. Given Libya's economic woes and the reported coup attempt last month, he has good reason.

Anyway, Khadafy should stay put. Tripoli's gain is no loss to New York City.

But Treiki continues:

"U.S. restrictions on movement of other UN diplomats and staff are harassment. So are also American threats to cut contributions to the UN budget."

Golly. Everything's always *our* fault. So what to do?

"If [UN] member [nations] cannot do their job properly in this country, maybe we should ask for a transfer elsewhere."

In other words, get the UN out of the U.S. Set it up in a city more attuned to the average General Assembly delegate's principles.

Treiki's got a point. How about Beirut?